

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: September 1, 2005

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:06 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:57 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Greg Bowes, Chair
Patrice Abdullah
Rozelle Boyd
Ginny Cain
Susie Day
Joanne Sanders
Scott Schneider

ABSENT

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 436, 2005- regarding the Marion County Office of Family and Children's request for a short term loan

BUDGET HEARING

Marion County Fair Board
Marion County Cooperative Extension Service
Marion County Office of Family & Children
Regional Mental Health Centers

Community Affairs Committee

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, September 1, 2005. Chair Greg Bowes called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Rozelle Boyd, Ginny Cain, Susie Day, Joanne Sanders, and Scott Schneider. Also present was President Steve Talley and Bart Brown, Chief Financial Officer, representing staff.

PROPOSAL NO. 436, 2005- regarding the Marion County Office of Family and Children's request for a short term loan

Councillor Talley stated that Proposal No. 436, 2005 is a general resolution regarding the Marion County Office of Family and Children's (OFC) request for a short-term loan. The proposal determines whether the loan requested by OFC should or should not be approved. Councillor Talley stated that if the Council approves this short-term borrowing request, the County Auditor would be compelled to levy a property tax increase beginning in the following year and continuing for the term of the loan. Councillor Talley stated that the tax bill of a house assessed at \$100,000, even after the Homestead credit is applied, would be an increase of \$14.40 per year on that home. If the requested 2006 budget increase were included, there would be an additional \$78 on that home for a total of \$93.26 a year. Mr. Talley stated that while he recognizes that these are "our children", and there is a responsibility to them, it is not in the best interest of Marion County property owners to allow an agency of State government to dictate the level of participation in the children's care without some input from the Council. He also added that he is asking this committee to find that it should not approve the request to borrow money on a short-term basis to fund child services.

Councillor Schneider asked if the proposal is encouraging the Council committee to not support an ordinance that will come before the Council in the future. Councillor Talley answered in the negative stating that the proposal is encouraging the Council to deny a short-term loan.

Councillor Boyd moved, seconded by Councillor Abdullah, to send Proposal No. 436, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

BUDGET HEARING

Marion County Fair Board

Don Pennington, President of Marion County Fair Board, distributed a handout with information on the request for funding. Some of the key points for Mr. Pennington's request were as follows:

- Repair roof on Horse Barn as well as five other buildings
- Run water and sewer lines and replace poor restroom fixtures

- Fix dangling sockets on some buildings

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Sanders arrived at 5:19 p.m.}

- Upgrade electrical service to bring up to code and comply with increased demand
- Replace some exterior doors

{Clerk's Note: This packet, Exhibit A, is on file in the Clerk's office}

Mr. Pennington stated that the Fairgrounds operation is funded by grants, gate revenue, boat and RV Storage (in the wintertime), and grounds rental (April-October) for special events. Probation labor is used for maintenance and minor repairs. Chair Bowes asked what was the historical funding. Mr. Pennington stated that it was \$117,000. Councillor Schneider asked if the decision not to fund the fair was a decision from the Mayor or the Controller. Robert Clifford, City Controller, stated that the 2005 budget did not include the Fair. Aside from the area of public safety and criminal justice, no other agencies will be receiving any increases, so their budget stayed at zero.

Councillor Cain asked if the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) could be a jurisdiction that would help with funding because water and sewer lines and ADA requirements are capital items. She also asked if they were in breach of those requirements. Mr. Pennington stated that most restrooms are not ADA compliant, but some of them are accessible, but not up to standard. Chair Bowes asked whether the CIB could be approached. Kobi Wright, Corporation Counsel stated that whether or not their statute would allow it, the issue is whether the CIB can get involved in any project that does not meet certain specification as to what they can do. Councillor Cain asked how that information could be found out. Mr. Wright stated that he would follow up on that request.

Councillor Sanders asked if any of the heavy-duty repairs qualify for storm damage. Mr. Pennington answered in the negative, stating that some of the heavy repairs like the roof are at the age where they have just deteriorated.

Councillor Cain asked if the Fair has a Foundation. Mr. Pennington answered in the negative. Mr. Brown asked Nadeen Biddinger, Treasurer of the Marion County Fair if the Fair applies for any Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) through Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD). Ms. Biddinger answered in the negative. Mr. Brown stated that might be something to look into.

Marion County Cooperative Extension Service

Ron Hoyt, Executive Director of Marion County Cooperative Extension, stated that the problem with funding the Cooperative Extension this fiscal year is that there are significant difficulties with the funding level based on the proposal passed at the last Council meeting, augmenting the current budget by \$100,000. The Cooperative Extension has a plan in place that will not only allow for successfully completing 2005, but also keep the operation in tact to move forward although somewhat smaller, leaner and with some small cuts in service. He also stated that in 2004, the budget was approximately \$1.1 million, and last year after the budget was restored, they were at \$750,000, which is about a 30% cut on funds. In order to address that particular issue and move ahead to 2006, these are some of the issues that have been addressed:

- Reduced the amount of rented space at Intech Park by 54%
- Downsized 13,000 square feet to about 6,000 by subleasing to other Purdue entities
- Reduced support and professional staff by 15% from vacant positions

Mr. Hoyt stated that the proposed level of \$834,293 puts the percentage of the total budget with Marion County contributing at 39% and Purdue University contributing about 57% with the balance about 4% generated from grants and contracts. Mr. Hoyt also added that some notable impacts that are seen out of the Cooperative Extension are 4H and the Master Gardner Program (which has a contract with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful). This program also takes care of the Governor's mansion and medians throughout the city. This program trains garden clubs and a number of other entities. Science Bound Program, which is a Purdue University / IPS cooperation where current students successfully complete the program upon graduation, are guaranteed a 4-year scholarship to Purdue. Mr. Hoyt stated that those are some of the programs the Cooperative Extension is involved in. Councillor Sanders asked to what degree Purdue maintains the grounds of the Governor's mansion. Mr. Hoyt stated there was a request for the program, and they maintain all of the container gardens, flowers, and a fair amount of weeding. Councillor Sanders asked how the supplies are provided. Mr. Hoyt stated that supplies are provided by an organization within State government. Councillor Boyd asked if services are contracted out. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative, stating it is on a limited basis.

Chair Bowes asked Mr. Clifford if the Cooperative Extension fit within the overall budget and has the ability to fund that amount. Mr. Clifford answered in the affirmative stating that it is included in the budget proposal. Chair Bowes asked if this is one of those agencies where it is required by State law to provide funding. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative. Councillor Sanders asked if the Cooperative Extension works with the Soil and Water Conservation.

Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative.

Marion County Office of Family and Children (OFC)

Dan Carmin, Director of OFC, distributed a packet with information on the budget and services provided by OFC. Mr. Carmin went through a list of topics to explain the funds needed regarding the OFC budget. Some of those topics were as follows:

- Average Time for Reunification
- Average Time to Adopt
- Re-entry Into Substitute Care
- Recurrence of Maltreatment
- Placement of Stability
- Maltreatment in Substitute Care
- Population by County of Youth Under 18
- Cost Per Child Served by the Budget
- Percentage of Individual County Budgets Spent on Counseling, Home Based Services, Preservation and Assessments

{Clerk's Note: This packet, Exhibit B, is on file in the Clerk's office}

Mr. Carmin stated that in Marion County, a lot of OFC's budget is being spent in the areas of counseling, home based services, and preservation and assessments. Councillor Abdullah asked what the cost effective number means in terms of real services. Mr. Carmin stated that it reflects on good work that is done in Marion County. He also stated the competitive selections of the providers with negotiations of rates that are fair. Some of the decisions are made for children that are not necessarily based on dollars. He also said that there is extensive monitoring of contracts, and working with providers and staff on cases to make sure the services are appropriate. Marilyn Moores, Marion County Juvenile Judge, stated that OFC audits every service provider to make sure the services that are contracted for are being delivered.

Councillor Sanders asked what base is used to determine the cost per child. Mr. Carmin stated that it is in the Family and Children budget and divides the number of CHINS. Councillor Sanders asked if that includes the \$16 million that is part of the Superior Court budget that goes to the Juvenile Court. Mr. Carmin answered in the negative.

Councillor Bowes asked when the bidding and auditing cycle begins and where the Council stands to make sure that the provider is doing the job required of them. He also asked how frequently the providers are looked at, being tracked, how often, and who is responsible. Brant Ping, Child and Adolescent Placement Project Agency, stated that there is a contractual process that, through negotiations after the request, is then executed by the selected providers. He also stated that the request is sent back to the Department of Child Services (DCS) where Mr. Carmin and Judge Moores sign the request, which then is sent to Presiding Judge Cale Bradford for signature and is then forwarded to the

Auditor, which may now be the Controller's office for certification of the appropriation of funds. Mr. Ping also stated that the packet contains a schedule of the audit and a brief sampling of the outcomes for various programs. He also added that various providers have self-reported outcome, which is sent to the Child Adolescent Placement Agency (CAPP) annually to ensure goals are being met.

Mr. Clifford asked why the placement cost for Marion County is lower than that of other counties. Mr. Carmin stated that OFC invests in services other than placing the children out of the home. Mr. Clifford asked, other than placement costs, what other services are included in the total budget. Mr. Carmin explained that the cost of family preservation and adoption services are two of the biggest items.

Regional Mental Health Centers- Gallahue Mental Health Center

Dr. Eric Crouse, Director of Gallahue Mental Health Center, stated that the dollar amount the County funds for the community mental health centers is mandated by statute. Kim Diller, Budget Manager of the Controller's office, stated that the amount is actually figured on the 2005 levy times the 2006 AV growth, which is a number given from the State. Councillor Boyd asked if this is determined year by year by the numbers that were given. Ms. Diller answered in the affirmative. She also stated that the statute does state what types of facilities are eligible. Previously in the Auditor's office, there were five facilities that the budgeted funds were distributed among the Centers based on the number of enrollment. It is their percentage of the total. Chair Bowes asked if that determination is done by an agreement between the different agencies or if that is decided in the statute. Ms. Diller stated that the number of enrollment is submitted and the Controller's office takes that total and figures out the percentage. Dr. Crouse stated that the numbers are not submitted to the Council; the State verifies those enrollments and then passes that information on to the Council.

Dr. Crouse went on to explain that the Regional Mental Health Centers provide services to a select group of Marion County residents who are comprised of those with serious and persistent mental illnesses, those who suffer from schizophrenic and other psychotic disorders, as well as severe mood disorders. He also stated that the Health Centers serve children who are seriously and emotionally disturbed. The Health Centers also treat individuals who have serious drug addictions. Dr. Crouse stated that all Regional Health Centers, together and individually, provide a wide range of services.

Midtown Mental Health Center

Margie Payne, Chief Executive Officer, Midtown Mental Health, stated that about 17,000 clients are seen per year and 4,000 of those are mentally ill. The primary mission of Midtown is to provide high quality services that promote independence and recovery for persons with severe and persistent mental illness, severely emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, and persons with chronic addiction.

BehaviorCorp

Larry Burch, Executive Director of BehaviorCorp, stated that BehaviorCorp strives to provide all clients with a broad range of effective mental health and addictions counseling services that respond to the needs of children, adolescents, adults and seniors. Councillor Cain asked if there were income requirements for services. Mr. Burch stated that to be eligible for the Hoosier Assurance Plan, which is the funding that the State uses, a person has to have a diagnosis that meets a category as discussed earlier by Dr. Crouse. He also explained that the agency serves the deaf mentally ill clients as well. Mr. Burch stated that at BehaviorCorp, services are designed to meet the needs of all segments of the population and configured to treat all manners of emotional problems.

Adult & Child Center

Robert Dunbar, Executive Director of Adult & Child Center, stated that the Center is a State certified non-profit community mental health center accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Adult & Child provides comprehensive and affordable services for children, adolescents, adults and seniors. He went on to explain that the professional staff consists of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, addiction specialists and case managers who work as a team or individually. The Center is funded by individual fees and their insurance, contracts for services from the Indiana Division of Mental Health, Medicaid, and Medicare, county funds, grants and donations. Chair Bowes asked how the dollars are overlapping. Mr. Dunbar stated that the dollars the Council appropriates are not designated. Chair Bowes asked if there was much more going on to where more funds are needed. Mr. Dunbar stated that the rates that Adult & Child gets reimbursed are a little less than other providers because there are other sources of revenue. Ms. Diller stated that the total distribution amount for 2006 is \$3,828,000, which is small compared to their total budget and divided among the five centers. Councillor Boyd asked how the Centers identify themselves as colleagues or is there some type of advisory mechanism. Ms. Payne stated that there is a Council that all the state mental health centers belong to and meet with on a quarterly basis. Mr. Dunbar stated that BehaviorCorp and Adult & Child are 501 (c) (3) corporations that have Board of Directors.

Universal Behavioral Services

Terry Buford, Chief Executive Officer of Universal Behavioral Services, stated that Universal is the first fully licensed community mental health center in over 30 years. The center is the only minority certified facility in the state. Universal has about 70 employees and provides all the mental health services for approximately 5,000 inmates. In doing so, Universal has created a re-entry program that bridges the gap from offenders to everyday citizens. Mr. Buford stated that Universal strives to provide quality service to all individuals in need.

{Clerk's Note: Exhibit C, is on file in the Clerk's office.}

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With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 7:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bowes, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

GB/law